

The problem with the proposed Broadcast Flag is that it flies in the face of the Betamax ruling, under which the Supreme Court upheld fair use rights for consumers, and refused to outlaw equipment that had substantial NON-infringing uses.

Hollywood would like to turn that completely around, and outlaw all equipment that has ANY infringing uses. Since consumers won't buy crippled equipment, the media industry wants the government to step in and mandate it. They will of course resist all other proposed government regulations of their industry in the name of "free enterprise."

The proposed regulation is unfair to consumers on its face, but is even more inappropriate when seen in its historical context: media conglomerates have won huge windfalls in the form of copyright extension legislation and one-sided "digital rights" legislation.

Please stamp out the proposed Broadcast Flag.